

The Kicker Man.
Exploratory.—We understand that Col. Chidlers is making a great blow around town about the little affair of last Saturday, and that he has induced some of our best citizens to believe that we attempted to assassinate him. While we have lived here too long for any solid business man to believe any such thing of us an explanation is perhaps due to all parties.

The Colonel's wife is a poetess. That is, she has copied poetry from standard poets and brought it to us as original, and it has been published as such in the Kicker. On several occasions we have suspected that all was not right, but we are kind hearted and willing to give a poetess a show. Saturday morning she brought in a poem entitled "The Old Oaken Bucket." We thought we'd heard of it somewhere, but she assured us that it was strictly original. She hadn't been gone half an hour when our literary editor, who also thought he'd heard of such a poem, found that our suspicions were correct. The poetess had stolen the whole thing.

The Colonel happened to be passing by and we called him in and broke the news as gently as possible. He flew mad in a moment and attempted to draw on us. It turned out, however, that he had left his gun at home, and we held him up against the wall and slit his right ear and let him go. This is a plain and honest statement of all the facts, and we challenge denial.

Brother Gardner.
"I has been axed by a member of dis Club," said Brother Gardner after the meeting had been opened with the usual ceremonies. "I has been axed if it is wrong fur a member of de church to play keerds. I reckon dat is accordin' to who you play wid an' how you play. I has bin a member of de church fur thirtytwo y'ars, an' de ole woman an' me kin set down to a game of keerds widout de slightest fear dat our facher am gwine to be mixed up wid sulphur an' brimstun. If de rest of yo' can't do it den let keerds alone. Dar's sunthin' wrong about ye."

"I has also bin axed if it is a sin fur a member of de Church to dance. Dar's also accordin'. If yo' was to dance as hard as yo could, an' whoop an' hel or an' balance bout an' git drunk it would be werry wrong. Seems to me dat mose' any religun orter be strong 'nuff to allow any man or woman to walk fraw a squar' dance an' shuffle a little when de fiddler calls out 'Balances to pardners!'

"One sartin member of dis Club wants to know if a pussin kin go to de theatre an' git to heaven too? Pears to me dat a religun which can't stand a play lastin' two hours is a leetle weak somwhers. I has bin to his races an' dawg fights wid my religun, an' I didn't feel it flakin' off a bit. I want to be good, an' I don't want to be stopped on de road arter death an' turned back, but I want a religun dat I hasn't got to lead around by a rope. If I go to the circus I don't want to feel dat Satan has his eye on me an' has got my name writ down in his book. If I play keerds I want my mind free to watch de game, instead of tremblin' all de time fur fear Ize lost my chance. If I dance I want to lift up my heels and have a good time, widout my religun pullin' me out doohs."

"Ize tellin' you, my frens, dat de man who has a religun dat is alius skeered of everythin' he meets an' dat has got to wear goggles ober its eyes an' hev cotten stuffed into its ears hasn't got much to brag of. If your religun can't rub agin de world an' come out all de better fur it—if it can't stand up when a leetle strain comes to test its backbone, you'd better sell out an' buy a new kind. We will now purceed wid de reg'lar proceedings."

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